CONSERVATION THRUST AREA

TITLE: SERDP Ecosystem Management Project - SEMP (CS-1114)

Funding:

	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY04
($K)	2,526	2,441	2,432	2,490

Objectives

- Coordinate and manage a SERDP ecosystem management initiative that focuses on ecosystem science relevant to DoD ecosystem management concerns
  - Establish and implement a long-term ecosystem monitoring site(s) on DoD installations
  - Plan and conduct multiple ecosystem research efforts at selected long term monitoring site(s)
  - Facilitate integration of results and findings of research into DoD ecosystem management approaches

Benefits

- Provide a foundation for distinguishing negative impacts related to military training and testing activities from other sources of ecological variation
- Provide an improved knowledge base for evaluation of ecosystem health

Products

- Provide scientific methods and tools to monitor and assess implementation of DoD ecosystem management policy on DoD installations:
  - Develop the Environmental Characterization and Monitoring Initiative (ECMI)
  - Provide scientific information to support ecosystem approach to DoD land management plans
  - Links to existing DoD efforts [i.e., Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan, (INRMP)]

Issues from Previous Meeting

- The Board requested that the PI provide a summary chart at the October 2003 SAB meeting that details the indicator parameters studied, those that are recommended for transition, and the probability of their success
- The Board requested a comparison be made between the indicators being developed by SEMP and those developed under other ongoing indicator studies

SEMP

SAB Action Items

- **Provide a comparison between indicators being developed by SEMP and those developed under other ongoing indicator studies**
- **Provide a summary chart that details the indicator parameters studied, those recommended for transition, and the probability of their success**

SAB Requested Action

- **Approve the 2004 program**

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SAB Assessment

- Probability of project success comes from usefulness and robust nature of information
- Suite of indicators usefulness for managing by FB staff
- Work from the Council of Environmental Quality – Earth Observation connectivity
- Suite of indicators: moving from ideal to practical

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SAB Concerns:

- Three to four years of work with little results (publications)
- SEMP is similar to a research center and therefore should have more output (publications)
- Accountability of the research and progress
- A hard review of the project is needed

SAB Motion:

- Reorganize/restructure project
- Define the future for the project besides monitoring
- Report results of restructure back to SAB (June 2004)
- Fund as necessary